

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 IO-10 EB-07 DOTE-00 OMB-01 /081 W

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R 181749Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9528

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06367

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GW, GE

SUBJECT: TRANSIT TRAFFIC NEGOTIATIONS--TELTON CANAL

REF: A) USBER 682; B) USBER 591; C) USBER 557;

D) STATE 11888; E) BONN 470

SUMMARY: ALLIES IN APRIL 17 BONN GROUP MEETING HAVE REQUESTED CLARIFICATIONS FROM FRG REGARDING SCENARIO IT FORESEES ON TELTOW CANAL NEGOTIATIONS. FRENCH REP EMPHASIZED PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD FLOW FROM SENAT-GDR NEGOTIATIONS ON TELTOW, AND FRG REP EMPHASIZED THE SERIOUSNESS OF UNDUE DELAY IN OPENING OF TALKS. END SUMMARY.

1. AT APRIL 17 BONN GROUP MEETING ALLIES FOLLOWED UP ON DISCUSSION OF ALLIED MISSIONS BERLIN (REFTEL A) AND REQUESTED CLARIFICATION FROM FRG AS TO DIVISION OF COMPETENCE BETWEEN SENAT AND FRG WITH RESPECT TO TELTOW CANAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH GDR. FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) SAID CONFIDENTIAL

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INDICATIONS OF SANNE TO ALLIED AMBASSADORS ON MARCH 19

(BONN 4622) THAT SENAT WOULD HANDLE TECHNICAL ASPECTS AND FRG THOSE RELATING TO "TRANSIT" WERE WELCOME BUT INSUFFICIENT BASIS FOR DECISIONS WITH RESPECT TO ALLIED AUTHORIZATION TO SENAT RE OPENING OF TALKS. FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT DID FRG CONSIDER TO BE "TECHNICAL," AND WHAT KIND OF AGREEMENTS INVOLVING WHOM AND AT WHAT LEVEL DID BONN FORESEE AS CONCLUDING THE TELTOW NEGOTIATIONS. BOISSIEU RECALLED KNOWN FRENCH POSITION THAT FRG SHOULD ACTUALLY DO THE TALKING WITH GDR ON CANAL AND EMPHASIZED FRENCH STILL BELIEVED SENAT ROLE SHOULD BE PLAYED DOWN AND FRG ROLE ENHANCED.

2. UK REP (CULLIMORE) STATED GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH FRENCH POSITION. US REP INDICATED AGREEMENT WITH NEED FOR CLARIFYING INFORMATION, AND STRESSED US VIEW THAT SOLUTION TO PROBLEM COULD BE FOUND. FRG REP (KASTRUP) EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE WHICH SENAT AND FRG PLACE ON MOVING AHEAD AND SAID SENAT PAPER PASSED TO ALLIED MISSIONS ON MARCH 19 SEEMED TO BE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION ON WHICH TO ALLOW SENAT-GDR TALKS TO BEGIN. PROBLEM IN FURTHER DEFINING ROLES IS THAT MUCH DEPENDS ON LINE GDR WILL TAKE. KASTRUP SAID FRG HAD MADE IT CLEAR TO SENAT IN MARCH 18 LETTER FROM SCHUELER (IN CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE) TO STOBBE THAT FRG WAS RESERVING FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS INVOLVING "TRANSIT" TO BONN.

3. BOISSIEU EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEM AS OUTLINED BY KASTRUP BUT POINTED OUT THAT ONE DECISION WHICH CLEARLY MUST BE REACHED BETWEEN GDR AND FRG, NOT SENAT, IS THE "POLITICAL" DECISION TO REOPEN THE CANAL. WHEN KASTRUP SAID IT COULD BE ASSUMED FROM DECEMBER 9 GDR NOTE THAT GDR HAD ALREADY REACHED SUCH A DECISION, BOISSIEU POINTED OUT THAT TELTOW CANAL WAS MENTIONED

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H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 IO-10 DOTE-00 OMB-01 /081 W

----- 077887

R 181749Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9529
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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ONLY IN GDR NOTE TO SENAT; HE THOUGHT THAT GAUS SHOULD AT THE VERY LEAST ASK GDR WHETHER IT WAS PREPARED TO OPEN THE CANAL AND OBTAIN A ONE-WORD REPLY. BOISSIEU IMPLIED THAT SUCH A PRIOR UNDERSTANDING IN PRINCIPLE BETWEEN FRG AND GDR WOULD BE MINIMUM FRENCH CONDITION FOR AUTHORIZING SENAT TO EMBARK ON "TECHNICAL" TALKS.

4. KASTRUP EXPRESSED DOUBT AT HIS ABILITY TO OBTAIN FURTHER CLARIFYING INFORMATION FROM HIS GOVERNMENT BUT UNDERTOOK TO REPORT REQUEST.

5. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF US (AND UK) STATEMENTS TO FRG IN JANUARY (REFTELS D AND E) THAT WE HAVE NO PREFERENCE AS TO WHETHER SENAT OR FRG NEGOTIATE ON TELTOW CANAL, WE WILL AVOID TAKING ANY POSITION OR GIVING ANY INDICATION THAT WE ARE BACKSLIDING FROM THIS POSITION. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT ALLIES DO NEED CLEARER IDEA OF WHAT FRG HAS IN MIND BUT, IN VIEW OF VERY HIGH INTEREST
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IN PROJECT AT VERY HIGH LEVELS OF FRG, EMBASSY DOES NOT THINK WE SHOULD BE OPEN TO CHARGES OF CHANGING POSITION AND THUS NEGATIVELY AFFECTING MATTER IN WHICH FRG (AND COALITION) HAVE A CONSIDERABLE STAKE. IN BONN GROUP DISCUSSIONS WE WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE A MORE MODERATE LINE THAN THE FRENCH AND BRITISH.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TELTOW CANAL, MEETINGS, INTERNATIONAL CANALS, INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORTATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BONN06367
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750137-0015
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750435/aaaabgfd.tel
Line Count: 162
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 USBER 682, 75 USBER 591, 75 USBER 557
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSIT TRAFFIC NEGOTIATIONS--TELTOW CANAL
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, GC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006